

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 04646 190901Z

12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 DRC-01 (ISO) W

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R 190710Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3688

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 4646

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN, AS

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA

REF: (A) CANBERRA 4427; (B) SEOUL 4593

1. KOREAN AMBASSADOR LO SUK CHAN CALLED AT MY OFFICE JULY 18 TO BRIEF ME ON LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN AUSTRALIA'S NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA. AMBASSADOR BELIEVES NORMALIZATION WILL BE ANNOUNCED BEFORE THE END OF THIS MONTH (FOMNIM WILLESEE HAD TOLD ME AUGUST 3 - SEE REFTEL A). HE ALSO THOUGHT THAT AUSTRALIA WOULD PROBABLY NOT AGREE TO RECEIVING AN NK EMBASSY IN CANBERRA UNTIL AFTER AN AUSTRALIAN SURVEY MISSION HAS FIRST VISITED PYONGYANG AND OBTAINED NORTH KOREA'S AGREEMENT TO SUITABLE HOUSING AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS FOR AN AUSTRALIAN MISSION THERE. SINCE THE AUSTRALIAN SURVEY MISSION IS NOT LIKELY TO VISIT NK BEFORE SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER, LO DID NOT ANTICIPATE THE LOCATION HERE OF AN NK MISSION BEFORE LATE OCTOBER, WITH AN AUSTRALIAN MISSION TO PYONGYANG NOT BEFORE NEXT YEAR.

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PAGE 02 CANBER 04646 190901Z

2. LO SAID THAT WILLESEE,S PLANS TO VISIT SOUTH KOREA

NEXT MONTH FOLLOWING THE AUSTRALIAN CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE IN HONG KONG HAVE BEEN CANCELLED. THE PRIMIN PREFERS THAT FONMIN MAKE THIS TRIP LATER ON ALSO VISITING NORTH KOREA. AMBASSADOR LO WAS DISAPPOINTED OVER THIS AND WODERED IF I COULD NOT USE MY INFLUENCE WITH PRIMIN TO FAVOR THE EARLIER PLAN FOR WILLESEE'S TRIP.

3. I REPLIED I SAW NO MERIT IN RAISING THIS WITH THE PRIMIN AT A TIME WHEN I WAS CERTAIN HE WAS UPSET OVER NEWS STORIES ABOUT ARRESTS AND TRIALS IN SEOUL. I DID NOT THINK I WOULD GE A GOOD RESPONSE.
GREEN

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